

I am Marcia Wilkins, a resident of Brookfield, Connecticut.

I offer the following comments on HB 6360, An Act for Implementation of Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy.

#### Natural Gas

With regard to the proposed expansion of the use of natural gas switching to a fossil fuel does not provide a significant reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases. The decision for the expensive build-out of the infrastructure required to transport natural gas is based on current low prices of natural gas. These prices are reliant on issues such as hydrofracking. There is increasing recognition by local areas containing natural gas reserves of toxic pollution caused by the practice. Full consideration of all economic and environmental impacts of gas extraction, transport and use do not support the large expansion of natural gas.

#### Energy Efficiency

I support the full funding of all energy efficiency programs. Support of oil and propane programs is currently due for reduction and/or shutdown.

#### Coal Plant

I support the shutdown of the Bridgeport Coal Plant as soon as possible. The health and environmental costs to the residents of the region call for the closing as soon as possible.

#### Renewable Energy

I oppose allowing allowing large-scale Canadian hydro to qualify for Class I renewable energy. Sending taxpayer money out of the country does not improve the renewable energy situation within Connecticut. It reduces the benefits of renewable energy investments within Connecticut and New England. The State should pursue long-term renewable energy contracts with electric generators within the region.

I also oppose taxpayer subsidies to dirty and increasingly uneconomic trash incinerators. These incinerators create pollution and should not be included in Class I renewable.

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